

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application, in view of the present amendment and in light of the following discussion, is respectfully requested.

Claims 27-53 are pending. In the present amendment, Claims 27, 29, 34, 37, and 42-48 are currently amended and new Claim 53 is added. Support for the present amendment can be found in the original specification, for example, at page 5, line 20 to page 6, line 18 and at page 7, line 8 to page 8, line 2. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that no new matter is added.

In the outstanding Office Action, Claims 27-52 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as anticipated by Head et al. (UK Patent Application GB2370590, hereinafter “Head”).

In response to the outstanding rejection of the claims under 35 U.S.C. §102(a), Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of this rejection and traverse this rejection, as discussed below.

Amended Claim 27 recites:

A telemetry system for bi-directional communication of data between a well point and a surface terminal unit, configured to be used inside drilling or production strings, comprising:

data transmission and optional reception devices;

an active vehicle, configured to be equipped with plural automation levels, ranging from purely tele-operated to completely autonomous, for unwinding and pulling a connection line from the vehicle, configured to move inside the drilling or production string, or a passive vehicle, moved by a deploying cable and a winding/unwinding device,

the passive vehicle including

a winch configured to unwind or pull the connection line from the vehicle,

means for supplying electric energy to the vehicle,

electronic control and communication devices,
and

anchoring devices configured to guarantee safe
stoppage inside the pipe,

wherein the vehicle is connected, by the
deploying cable and a hooking/unhooking device, to the
winding/unwinding device, and is configured to be
situated inside a garage or outside the string; and

a connection line, containing electric conductors and/or
one or more optical fibers, of the transmission and optional
reception devices between the well point and its corresponding
point situated inside the vehicle or on the surface.

As recited in amended Claim 27, regardless of whether an active vehicle or a passive vehicle is used in the telemetry system, the connection line is unwound or pulled from within the vehicle itself. It is respectfully submitted that Head does not disclose or suggest every feature recited in amended Claim 27.

Head describes a drill pipe cable installation system including cable wound around a lower bobbin at the bottom of a bore hole and upper bobbins positioned along the drill string.¹ Head also describes that the cable is winched up such that the cable is paid out from the upper bobbin and then from the lower bobbin.² Thus, the excess cable to be fed when a new drill sting is added is stored in the bobbins.

However, it is respectfully submitted that Head does not disclose or suggest “an active vehicle...for unwinding and pulling a connection line from the vehicle” or “a passive vehicle...including a winch configured to unwind or pull the connection line from the vehicle,” as recited in amended Claim 27.

Instead, Head describes a system in which a rewinding mechanism 20 only rewinds cable 3 onto an upper bobbin when a wiper trip is performed.³ Thus, Head describes that the cable is unwound or pulled from the bobbins dispersed throughout the drilling string, and not

¹ See Head, at page 9, lines 1-20.

² See Head, at page 9, lines 1-12.

³ See Head, at page 10, lines 1-6 and in Figure 3.

for a vehicle moving within the string. As discussed in the original specification, for example, at page 4, line 19 to page 5, line 1 the approach described in Head of unwinding cable from a bobbin at the well bottom results in friction of the cable along the internal surface of the pipes, making practical application along drilling strings impossible. Additionally, the cable described in Head would become covered in mud during use, making it very difficult to rewind around the bobbin during a wiper trip.

Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that Head does not disclose or suggest every feature recited in amended Claim 27. Thus, it is respectfully requested that the outstanding rejection of amended Claim 27, and all claims dependent thereon, as anticipated by Head be withdrawn.

Amended Claim 34 recites, *inter alia*, an active vehicle including “a winch configured to unwind or pull the connection line from the vehicle.” The outstanding Office Action, on page 3, cites Figures 8 and 9 of Head as describing the claimed winch. However, in view of the above discussion, it is respectfully submitted that Head does not disclose or suggest a winch included in an active vehicle that is configured to unwind or pull the connecting line from the vehicle.

Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that Head does not disclose or suggest every feature recited in amended Claim 34. Thus, it is respectfully requested that the outstanding rejection of Claim 34, and all claims dependent thereon, as anticipated by Head be withdrawn.

Amended Claim 37 recites, *inter alia*, a passive vehicle, including “a winch configured to unwind or pull the connection line from the vehicle.” In view of the above discussion of Head with respect to Claims 27 and 34, it is respectfully submitted that Head does not disclose or suggest a winch included in a passive vehicle that is configured to unwind or pull the connection line from the vehicle.

Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that Head does not disclose or suggest every feature recited in amended Claim 37. Thus, it is respectfully requested that the outstanding rejection of Claim 37, and all claims dependent thereon, as anticipated by Head be withdrawn.

Regarding the outstanding rejection of Claims 42-46, it is noted that these claims are hereby amended to depend on independent Claim 27. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that Claims 42-46 patentably define over Head for at least the reasons discussed above with respect to Claim 27.

Amended Claim 47 recites, *inter alia*, a process for insertion of a new section of drilling string when an active vehicle is used, including “returning the vehicle to the garage with a contemporaneous unwinding and pulling of a line such that the line is unwound or pulled from the active vehicle.”

As discussed above with respect to independent Claims 27, 34, and 37, it is noted that Head describes that the line is unwound from lower and upper bobbins, and not from an active vehicle. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that Head does not disclose or suggest every feature recited in amended Claim 47. Thus, it is respectfully requested that the outstanding rejection of Claim 47 as anticipated by Head be withdrawn.

Amended Claim 48 recites, *inter alia*, a process for insertion of a new section of drilling string when a passive vehicle is used, including “hooking the passive vehicle by the hooking/unhooking device positioned at an end of the cable run by which the winch situated inside the garage and hoisting the vehicle back into the garage such that a connection line is unwound or pulled from the vehicle.”

In view of the discussion of Head with respect to independent Claims 27, 34, 37, and 47, it is respectfully submitted that Head does not disclose or suggest that the connection line is unwound or pulled from a passive vehicle. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that

Head does not disclose or suggest every feature recited in amended Claim 48. Thus, it is respectfully requested that the outstanding rejection of Claim 48 as anticipated by Head be withdrawn.

New Claim 53 is added by the present amendment. Support for new Claim 53 can be found in the original specification, for example, at page 5, line 20 to page 6, line 18 and at page 7, line 8 to page 8, line 2. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that no new matter is added.

New Claim 53 recites, *inter alia*, a telemetry system, including “the active or passive vehicle includes a winch configured to unwind or pull the line from the vehicle.” Thus, it is respectfully submitted that Claim 53 patentably defines over the cited reference for at least the reasons discussed above with respect to Claim 27.

Consequently, in view of the present amendment, no further issues are believed to be outstanding in the present application, and the present application is believed to be in condition for formal allowance. A Notice of Allowance is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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